

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
EASTERN DIVISION**

ERIC HARRIS,)	
)	
Movant,)	
)	
v.)	No. 4:16CV991 HEA
)	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

OPINION, MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

Before the Court is movant’s motion to vacate, set aside or correct sentence pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 [Doc. #1] and his motion to hold this case in abeyance pending a decision from the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit on movant’s petition to file a successive habeas action [Doc. #2]. Specifically, the motion to hold this case in abeyance states, “On June 24, 2016, movant filed a petition in the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit asking permission to file a successive petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2255(h)(2) and 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(2)(A), in which to raise a claim that relies on *Johnson*, a new rule of constitutional law, made retroactive to cases on collateral review by the Supreme Court. The Eighth Circuit has not yet ruled on this request.”¹

Under 28 U.S.C. § 2255(h):

A second or successive motion must be certified as provided in section 2244 by a panel of the appropriate court of appeals to contain--

¹The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on movant’s request on June 16, 2016, denying him permission to file a successive § 2255 at that time. *See Harris v. United States*, No. 16-2146 (8th Cir. 2016). The Court notes, however, that movant has a second case pending with the Eighth Circuit, as well. *See Harris v. United States*, No. 16-2897 (8th Cir. 2016). This case has not yet been decided.

(1) newly discovered evidence that, if proven and viewed in light of the evidence as a whole, would be sufficient to establish by clear and convincing evidence that no reasonable factfinder would have found the movant guilty of the offense; or

(2) a new rule of constitutional law, made retroactive to cases on collateral review by the Supreme Court, that was previously unavailable.

When a second or successive habeas petition is filed in a District Court without the authorization of the Court of Appeals, the Court should dismiss it, or, in its discretion and in the interests of justice, transfer the motion to the Court of Appeals. *Boyd v. U.S.*, 304 F.3d 813, 814 (8th Cir. 2002).² Because movant has already filed an action with the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals as a request to file a second or successive § 2255 motion based on *Johnson*, this Court will not transfer the instant action, but rather, will dismiss it without prejudice to refiling if, and when, movant obtains permission to do so.

Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that movant's motion to hold this case in abeyance pending a decision from the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit on movant's petition to file a successive habeas action [Doc. #2] is **DENIED** without prejudice.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that movant's motions to vacate are **DENIED**, without prejudice, because movant has not yet obtained permission from the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit to bring the motion in this Court. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2255(h).

² The requirement that prisoners obtain authorization from the Circuit Court before filing a second or successive petition in the District Court is jurisdictional. *Burton v. Stewart*, 127 S. Ct. 793, 796 (2007). "Federal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction. The requirement that jurisdiction be established as a threshold matter springs from the nature and limits of the judicial power of the United States and is inflexible and without exception." *Kessler v. Nat'l Enterprises, Inc.*, 347 F.3d 1076, 1081 (8th Cir. 2003) (quotation marks omitted).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that no certificate of appealability shall issue.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Order to the Federal Public Defender.

A separate Order of Dismissal shall accompany this Memorandum and Order.

Dated this 12th day of July, 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry Edward Autrey", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

HENRY EDWARD AUTREY
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE